II. CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A lighting system comprising:

a driver circuit including a source of AC voltage,

an electroluminescent panel with a plurality of panel regions configured to emit visible light when AC voltage is applied thereto,

each panel region having a given capacitance and being selectively connectable to the source of AC voltage, wherein each panel region is configured to maintain a substantially constant capacitance load on the source of AC voltage,

a substitute capacitor layer associated with each panel region, the substitute capacitor layer having a capacitance that is substantially equal to the capacitance of the associated panel region,

the substitute capacitor layer being connected to the source of AC voltage when the associated panel region is not connected to the source of AC power and vice versa.

2. (Previously Presented) The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein the driver circuit comprises a plurality of current flow control devices coupled to the electrodes of the panel regions and to the electrodes of the substitute capacitor layer.

3. (Previously Presented) The lighting system according to claim 2, wherein the current flow control devices comprise switches that alternately charge the panel sections and the associated substitute capacitor layer.

4. (Original) The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein the driver circuit further comprises a controller configured to control the current flow control devices.

5. (Previously Presented) The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein the panel regions and the substitute capacitors layer are formed in a single thin film.

6. (Previously Presented) The lighting system according to claim 5, wherein the panel regions comprise;

an emission layer between a transparent front electrode and a second electrode, and

the substitute capacitor layer is between the second electrode and a rear electrode.

7. (Original) The lighting system according to claim 1, wherein the AC voltage source is a battery driven step up converter.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A thin film electroluminescent panel comprising;

an emission layer arranged in between a transparent front electrode and a second electrode,

a substitute capacitor layer arranged between the second electrode and a rear electrode, the substitute capacitor layer having a capacitance that is substantially equal to a capacitance of the panel, , anda source of AC voltage connected to the substitute capacitor, the source of AC voltage being connected to the substitute capacitor when the panel is not connected to the source of AC power and vice versa.

10. (Previously Presented) The thin film electroluminescent panel according to claim 9, wherein the substitute capacitor layer and the emission layer are formed by one and the same electrolytic material.

11. (Previously Presented) The thin film electroluminescent panel according to claim 9, wherein the electroluminescent panel comprises a plurality of panel regions each having an emission layer and a substitute capacitor layer, each panel region having a given capacitance and being selectively connectable to the source of AC voltage,

a substitute capacitor associated with each panel region, the substitute capacitor having a capacitance that is substantially equal to the capacitance of the associated panel region,

the substitute capacitor being connected to the source of AC voltage when the associated panel region is not connected to the source of AC power and vice versa.

12. – 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously Presented) The thin film electroluminescent panel of claim 9 further comprising a switch alternately connected between the transparent front electrode and ground, and the rear electrode and ground.

39. (Previously Presented) A lighting system comprising:

a driver circuit including a source of AC voltage;

an electroluminescent panel region configured to emit visible light when AC voltage is applied thereto;

the panel region having a given capacitance and being selectively connectable to the source of AC voltage, wherein the panel region is configured to maintain a substantially constant capacitance load on the source of AC voltage,;

a substitute capacitor associated with the panel region, the substitute capacitor having a capacitance that is substantially equal to the capacitance of the panel region;

the substitute capacitor being connected to the source of AC voltage when the panel region is not connected to the source of AC power and vice versa.